

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A nozzle which is to be provided on a top of a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the tubular neck portion being to be mounted with a cap, the nozzle having opposite top and bottom ends and comprising:

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end towards the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and configured to be in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container; and

a ring-shaped projection formed on an upper portion between the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle.

2. (currently amended) A nozzle according to claim 1, wherein a constricted portion is formed ~~below~~ between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle.

3. (currently amended) A nozzle which is to be provided on a top of a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the tubular neck portion being detachably mounted with a cap such that an inner circumferential surface of the cap is in contact with an outer circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the nozzle having opposite top and bottom ends and comprising:

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end towards the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container; and

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the cap, the ring-shaped projection being formed ~~on an upper portion~~ between the flange and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange and the top end of the nozzle.

4. (original) A nozzle according to claim 3, wherein an airtight air pool is formed between a hermetically sealed portion of the inner top portion of the cap and the discharging hole of the nozzle and a hermetic contact portion of the inner circumferential surface of the cap and the ring-shaped projection of the nozzle.

5. (currently amended) A nozzle according to claim 3, wherein a constricted portion is formed ~~below~~ between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle.

6. (currently amended) A nozzle according to claim 5, wherein at least two ring-shaped fins whose edges are to be hermetically brought into contact with ~~the~~ an inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion upon inserting the nozzle into the tubular neck portion are formed ~~on the~~ an outer circumferential surface ~~of the lower portion of the nozzle~~ between the flange portion and the bottom end portion of the nozzle while being vertical spaced apart, and an airtight air pool is formed between hermetic contact portions of the respective ring-shaped fins and the inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion.

7. (currently amended) A nozzle ~~which is~~ having opposite top and bottom ends, portions of the nozzle between the ends being configured to be inserted into a

tubular neck portion of a liquid container such that an outer circumferential surface of a lower portion of the nozzle is hermetically held in contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the tubular neck portion being detachably mounted with a cap such that an inner circumferential surface of the cap is spirally engaged with or locked into an outer circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the nozzle comprising:

a discharging hole extending from the top end of the nozzle and into the liquid container, the discharging hole being disposed to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top and bottom ends of the nozzle and in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container; and

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the cap, the ring-shaped projection being formed ~~on an upper portion~~ between the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle.

8. (original) A nozzle according to claim 7, wherein an airtight air pool is formed between a hermetically sealed portion of the inner top portion of the cap and the discharging hole of the nozzle and a hermetic contact portion of the inner circumferential surface of the cap and the ring-shaped projection of the nozzle.

9. (currently amended) A nozzle according to claim 7, wherein a constricted portion is formed ~~below~~ between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle.

10. (currently amended) A nozzle according to claim 9, wherein at least two ring-shaped fins whose edges are to be hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion upon inserting the nozzle into the tubular neck portion are formed on the outer circumferential surface ~~of the lower portion of the nozzle while being vertical~~ spaced apart from one another between the flange portion and the bottom end of the nozzle, and an airtight air pool is formed between hermetic contact portions of the respective ring-shaped fins and the inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion.

11. (currently amended) A nozzle which is formed on a top of a cap hermetically mounted on a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the cap being coupled with an upper lid via a hinge, the upper lid being formed with a tubular portion on an inner top portion thereof, the nozzle comprising:

opposite top and bottom ends, the bottom end at the top of the cap;

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end substantially to the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by ~~an~~ the inner top portion of the upper lid; and

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with ~~the~~ an inner circumferential surface of the ~~cap~~ tubular portion of the upper lid, the ring-shaped projection being formed ~~on an upper portion~~ between the top of the cap and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the top of the cap and the top end of the nozzle.

12. (currently amended) A nozzle according to claim 11, wherein an airtight air pool is formed between a hermetically sealed portion of the inner top portion of the ~~cap~~ upper lid and the discharging hole of the nozzle and a hermetic contact portion of

the inner circumferential surface of the ~~cap~~ tubular portion and the ring-shaped projection of the nozzle.

13. (original) A nozzle according to claim 11, wherein a constricted portion is formed ~~below~~ between the ring-shaped projection of the nozzle and the to of the cap.

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A liquid container comprising:

a tubular neck portion;

a cap mounted on the tubular neck portion;

a nozzle provided on a top of the tubular neck portion, the nozzle having opposite top and bottom ends and including:

a discharging hole extending from the bottom end to the top end and to be hermetically sealed by an inner top portion of the cap;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container;

and

a ring-shaped projection formed ~~on an upper portion~~ between the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle.

16. (original) A liquid container according to claim 15, wherein the cap is detachably mounted on the tubular neck portion such that an inner circumferential surface of the cap is in contact with an outer circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the ring-shaped projection is hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the cap.

17. (currently amended) A liquid container according to claim 15, wherein a portion of the nozzle between the bottom end and the flange portion is inserted into the tubular neck portion such that an outer circumferential surface of ~~a lower portion of the nozzle~~ between the bottom end and the flange portion is hermetically held in contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, the cap is detachably mounted on the tubular neck portion such that an inner circumferential surface of the cap is spirally engaged with or locked into an outer circumferential surface of the tubular neck portion, and the ring-shaped projection is hermetically brought into contact with the inner circumferential surface of the cap.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (new) A nozzle which is to be provided on a top of a tubular neck portion of a liquid container, the nozzle having opposite and bottom ends comprising:

a discharging hole extending from the top end towards the bottom end for discharging liquid from the liquid container;

a flange portion spaced from the top end of the nozzle and configured to be in contact with the top of the tubular neck portion of the liquid container; and

a ring-shaped projection formed between and spaced from the flange portion and the top end of the nozzle.

20. (new) A nozzle according to claim 19, wherein a constricted portion is formed between the ring-shaped projection and the flange portion of the nozzle.

21. (new) A liquid container comprising:

a tubular neck portion;

a cap hermetically mounted on the tubular neck portion, the cap being coupled with an upper lid via a hinge, the upper lid being formed with a tubular portion on an inner top portion thereof;

a nozzle formed on a top of the cap, the nozzle including:

opposite top and bottom ends, the bottom end of the nozzle being at the top of the cap;

a discharging hole extending through the nozzle from the top end substantially to the bottom end and being disposed to be hermetically sealed by the inner top portion of the upper lid; and

a ring-shaped projection to be hermetically brought into contact with an inner circumferential surface of the tubular portion of the upper lid, the ring-shaped projection being formed between the top of the cap and the top end of the nozzle and spaced from the top of the cap and the top end of the nozzle.